

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

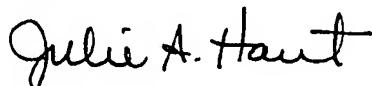
- I. Claims 1-3
- II. Claim 4

In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, to pursue the claims in Group I – Claims 1-3. Applicants respectfully contend that the apparatus claims of Group I and the method claim of Group II are so intertwined, such that a search of the subject matter of the claims of one of the Groups will uncover relevant art related to the subject matter of the claims of the other Group. In addition, Applicants contend that there will not be a serious burden placed on the Examiner if the restriction requirement is not required because only the subject matter of Claim 4 would need to be searched. Even though the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of the claims in Group I are classified in a different class than the subject matter of the claim of Group II, there still will not be a serious burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of the non-elected claim of the application in one or more divisional patent applications if the restriction requirement is upheld.

The undersigned is available during normal business hours if a telephone conversation would be helpful to advance prosecution in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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